

## IDEAS FOR MICHIGAN MENTORING MONTH EVENTS 2008

### Real People...Changing Lives Two At A Time

Events have many purposes: to raise funds, promote mentoring, recognize volunteers, recruit mentors, celebrate accomplishments, give mentors and mentees a chance to meet, and announce important news.

Want to try something new? Check out these ideas for mentoring-related events. You may also want to look at the ideas for male-focused recruitment in the Michigan Mentoring Month Tool Kit.

- Host an open house and light dinner for mentors, mentees, and their families to meet and mingle. Mentors are encouraged to bring a friend who might want to be a mentor. It could even be a potluck dinner.
- Organize a group tour of a local cultural institute, museum, or nature park for mentors/mentees.
- Sponsor a photo exhibit, with art created by mentees and their mentors. Work with your local cultural center, businesses, mall, etc. to display the exhibit
- Work with a local professional, college, or high school athletic team game to host a special mentor/mentee sports clinic or special event at one of their competitions.
- Hold a Thank Your Mentor Day recognition event.
- Host a service project for mentors and mentees. They could paint the meeting room at your office, visit a nursing home, host a can drive, or do a clean-up project at the local school or senior center.
  - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service is January 21, 2008. This is a day when Americans join together to serve in their local community. Visit [www.mlkday.gov](http://www.mlkday.gov) for more information or see the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service document in the Michigan Mentoring Month Toolkit.
- Hold an interactive press conference announcing your local or regional mentoring collaborative. Consider having mentors and mentees speak. Invite the media to participate in a hands-on activity.
- Host a mentoring “mini fun fair” with activities kids and adults can do together. Make sure you have information about your mentoring program available. Have it at a local mall, parks and recreation facility, faith-based organization, or school.
- Sponsor a recruitment fair for all mentoring organizations in the community.

- Hold an intergenerational event for seniors and youth to get to know each other. Have a booth where seniors can sign up to become mentors.
- Sponsor a marathon run/walk that raises money for and promotes mentoring. Have mentors and mentees do the walk together. (It could even be a three-legged walk if it's a short distance!)
- Think of an activity, such as collecting returnable bottles, that raises funds for mentoring.
- Hold a telethon that promotes mentoring and recruits volunteers.
- Sponsor a day of skiing and snowboarding, with proceeds from ticket sales used for mentoring.
- Promote a day of mentees going to work with their mentors (job shadowing).
- Invite a local (and, perhaps, well-known) leader to speak interactively with young people at a breakfast or dinner meeting. Have the mentees invite their mentors to attend.
- Create a legislative showcase that brings local and/or state leaders together to illustrate how local mentoring programs are making a positive difference in young people's lives.
- Sponsor a Mentoring Day to bring mentor/mentee pairs (from a town, city, or region) together for a day of fun.

This information is brought to you by Mentor Michigan and MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership.